(b) Electricity being a Concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State/UT is in the purview of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by establishing power plants in Central sector through CPSUs.

At present, Assam has, besides firm share of 508 MW in Central Generating Stations (CGSs), 102 to 114 MW allocation from the unallocated quota of CGSs of the region, which is the highest among the North-Eastern States. In addition, the State has been provided 50 MW and 100 MW during peak and off peak assistance from the NTPC stations in the Eastern Region respectively.

Further, Bongaigaon TPS (4x60 MW) of ASEB has been taken up by the NTPC for setting up a new 3x250 MW capacity power plant at the existing site.

(c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, any generating company may establish, operate and maintain a thermal generating station without obtaining license under this Act, if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid specified by Central Electricity Authority. However, concurrence of Central Electricity Authority is required for setting up hydro-electric generation projects involving a capital expenditure exceeding a specified sum.

No proposal for setting up of private electricity plants in Assam has been received in the last six years in Central Electricity Authority for clearance.

Energy potential in the country

4220. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment on future energy potential has been made throughout the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of energy potential in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to harness that potential?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) According to the Report of the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy published by Planning Commission, there are proven coal reserves of 38114 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mote), of which extractable coal reserves are 13489 Mote The proven and extractable reserves of lignite are 1220 Mtoe. The reserves of oil, gas and Coal Bed Methane are 786 metric tonnes, 1101 Mote and 765 Mote respectively. This excludes the energy potential in respect of nuclear and other renewable energy resources.

The re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of the country, completed by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, have placed the economically exploitable hydro power potential at 84044 MW at 60% load factor which when fully developed would result in an installed capacity of about 150000 MW on the basis of probable average load factor. This would yield an annual energy generation of 600 Billion Units (BU). Out of this, 20.76% of the installed capacity has been developed of 600 Billion Units (BU) Out of this, 20.76% of the installed capacity has been developed and 9.04% is under development.

(b) and (c) The hydro potential (in terms of installed capacity) of North Eastern Region is about 60,000 MW which would yield an annual energy generation of about 240 BU. Out of this, 2% has been developed and 4.65% is under development. The potential and corresponding energy in various States of NE Region are given below:

Sl.No.	State	Annual Energy (Billion Units)
1.	Meghalaya	9.48
2.	Tripura	0.05
3.	Manipur	6.95
4.	Assam	2.66
5.	Nagaland	5.73
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	206.53
7.	Mizoram	7.89
	TOTAL NER	239.29

The Government has accorded priority for hydro development and has taken a number of steps and measures in this direction. Some are given below:

(A) Policy initiatives taken for increasing the hydro capacity

(i) Policy on Hydro power development.

(ii) National Water Policy

(iii) Electricity Act, 2003.

(iv) National Electricity Policy.

(v) National Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy.

(vi) Keeping in view the requirements of power projects in certain States including Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, the minimum capacity of inter-State thermal power plants to avail mega project benefits, has been reduced from 1000 MW to 700 MW in these States. The corresponding qualifying threshold capacity for inter-State hydro power plants located in these States, for availing mega benefits has been reduced from 500 MW to 350 MW.

(B) Other measures taken for increasing the hydro capacity

(i) Creation of Power Corporations and development of project in the North East by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation, NTPC Limited in addition to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation.

(ii) *Three stage clearance procedure*

(iii) Ranking study by CEA

(iv) 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative and recent signing of MOU with Government of Arunachal Pradesh for development nearly 14000 MW.

Power capacity addition

4221. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a plan to add 70,000 MW of generation capacity during the next five years;